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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 10/039,999 | 10/24/2001 | Derek K. Gauger | GDK-100-B | 9338 |
| 7590 10/20/2005 YOUNG & BASILE, P.C. Suite 624 3001 West Big Beaver Road Troy, MI 48084-3107 | | | EXAMINER THAI, CANG G | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3629 | PAPER NUMBER |

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/039,999 | GAUGER, DEREK K. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Cang G. Thai | 3629 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 08/04/2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6,8-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,295,513 (THACKSTON).

As for Claim 1, THACKSTON discloses an interactive computer method for managing a project, the method comprising the steps of:

defining authorized individuals who have access to an interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project {See Fig. 18A, Element 1802 and Page 17, Paragraph [0182], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over “the team member logs on to the NICECAD system, as in step 1802, and the NICECAD system authenticates the team members”}. Team member logs on to the system are authorized individuals who have access to an interactive computer system.

opening an electronic collaboration center on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project {See Fig. 16A,

Art Unit: 3629

Element 1626 and Page 16, Paragraph [0169], Lines 1-5, wherein this reads over “the prime contractor (or other approval authority) may approve proposed modifications to the preliminary baseline part design model, as in step 1626, based on the recommendations made by the design team and analysis team(s)”. The collaboration between the design team and analysis team(s) may approve on the proposed modifications at a disjointed time.

determining in the collaboration center access to the collaboration center by the authorized individuals {Page 16, Paragraph [0167], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over “the prime contractor may assign design and analysis access permissions to teams or individual team members as in step 1614”};

defining a collaboration including at least one of a collaboration purpose, a collaboration action plan and deadline for the project {Page 1, Paragraph [0007], Lines 5-8, wherein this reads over “the design will evolve (as depicted in FIG. 1, from Design 1, Design 2, and so on to final design n) as changes are recommended and implemented”}; and

accepting input information at the collaboration center from authorized individuals relating to at least one of the collaboration purpose, the collaboration action plan, and the deadline {Page 2, Paragraph [0018], Lines 5-8, wherein this reads over “accessible by authorized team members through a graphical user interface that is substantially platform independent to reduce or eliminate the necessity for specialized hardware and software”}.

Art Unit: 3629

As for claim 2, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

allowing all authorized individuals to perform at least one of review, submit, author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals electronically in the collaboration center {Page 3, Paragraph [0026], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over “a current baseline design is maintained so that engineering analysis and simulation team members perform their analysis on the correct design”}.

As for claim 3, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration purpose, the deadline, the collaboration action plan and input information {Page 1, Paragraph [0008], Lines 9-14, wherein this reads over “when an acoustic specialist recommends that improved hydrophones be used or an RF specialist recommends that an improved receiver be used, the mechanical engineer will need to determine if packaging limits are exceeded and the accounting specialists will need to determine if “design to cost” parameters are exceeded”}.

As for claim 4, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

accepting votes of authorized individuals for at least one element of the collaboration {Page 3, Paragraph [0027], Lines 16-18, wherein this reads over “the system allows prime contractors to provide feedback on performance which can be factored into a quality assurance capability provided by the system”}.

As for claim 5, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

maintaining and displaying the status of each collaboration {Page 5, Paragraph [0064], Lines 7-12, wherein this reads over “the virtual environment provides data neutrality by maintaining part design models in a common, neutral format, and providing utilities so that user’s specialized part design model software formats do not present barriers to participation in a collaborative engineering effort”}.

As for claim 6, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving documents attached to user responses {Page 5, Paragraph [0068], Lines 9-12, wherein this reads over “prime contractor user system 220 may comprise computers running standard operating systems and supporting “browser” technologies for accessing and displaying data over a common network”}.

As for claim 8, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings, requesting information, reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect documents and archiving project data {Page 3, Paragraph [0026], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over “a current

Art Unit: 3629

baseline design is maintained so that engineering analysis and simulation team members perform their analysis on the correct design"}.

As for claim 9, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:

using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules {Page 7, Paragraph [0077], Lines 22-25, wherein this reads over "the NICECAD system functions address, such as an Internet address or URL or web site address, is used by the user systems"}.

As for claim 10, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:

allowing each of the information modules to be linked for data interchange between each module {Page 6, Paragraph [0074], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over "NICECAD server system 200 comprises a server system supporting collaborative engineering environment"}.

As for claim 11, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 8 wherein the step of allowing access to documents and information in any module comprises the step of:

assigning status states to each of the documents {Page 9, Paragraph 0095], Lines 17-18, wherein this reads over "the latest version number may be the current baseline design"}.

As for claim 12, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting information further comprises the step of:

specifying the name of request recipients for defined organization categories {Page 3, Paragraph [0026], Lines 10-12, wherein this reads over “an integrated product data management (PDM) capability manages access to controlled data and maintains a record of various manifestations”}.

As for claim 13, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting information further comprises the steps of:

issuing a request for information {Page 3, Paragraph [0028], Lines 5-7, wherein this reads over “a request for quote (RFQ) or request for proposal (RFP) with design data is submitted to the system”};

designating a designated recipient for the request for information {Page 3, Paragraph [0028], Lines 7-8, wherein this reads over “fabricators can submit proposals”};

providing the designated recipient with the capability of one of replying directly to the request for information, delegating the request for information to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to the request for information {Page 3, Paragraph [0028], Lines 8-10, wherein this reads over “the virtual computer aided design (CAD) capability allows quasi-real-time discussions, including audio, video and graphics”}; and

providing the designated recipient with the capability of delegating the request for information to a designated delegate and solely receiving a reply from the designated delegate {Page 3, Paragraph [0028], Lines 8-10, wherein this reads over “the graphic

Art Unit: 3629

capability allows a prime contractor and prospective fabricator to view the three-dimensional part design”}.

As for claim 14, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 8 wherein the step of reviewing project progress further comprises the steps of:

issuing a request for project data review {Page 26, Paragraph [0282], Lines 1-2, wherein this reads over “the generated report option may be selected if the fabricator wishes to view a report”};

designating a plurality of designated recipients for the review request {Page 26, Paragraph [0282], Lines 3-5, wherein this reads over “three categories of fabricator reports may be supported, as reflected by the three paths emanating from decision block of step 6160”}; and

providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one of in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the designated recipients {Page 26, Paragraph [0282], Lines 5-8, wherein this reads over “if the fabricator information in the database to ensure it is current, then the fabricator information report option may be selected”}.

As for claim 15, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project plans

Art Unit: 3629

{Page 25, Paragraph [0276], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over “the designer may be given the option of viewing the report directly as browser pages or of linking to a file for download as a standard word processing text document”}.

As for claim 16, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 15 wherein the step of selecting how to receive notifications comprises the step of:

electing one of receiving notifications by electronic mail, with or without attached documents, and the form of the electronic mail {Page 25, Paragraph [0276], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over “the designer may be given the option of viewing the report directly as browser pages or of linking to a file for download as a standard word processing text document”}.

As for claim 17, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:

sending the notifications to each authorized individual by electronic mail {Page 25, Paragraph [0272], Lines 6-9, wherein this reads over “similar to step 4380, step 4240 provides for the query results to be sent to the designer, which may simply encompass an e-mail informing the designer that the results are posted and available for retrieval”}.

As for claim 18, THACKSTON discloses an interactive computer method for monitoring a project, the method comprising the steps of:

Defining authorized individuals who have access to an interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project {Page 17, Paragraph [0182],

Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over “the team member logs on to the NICECAD system, as in step 1802, and the NICECAD system authenticates the team members”};

Opening an electronic collaboration center on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project {Page 16, Paragraph [0169], Lines 1-5, wherein this reads over “the prime contractor (or other approval authority) may approve proposed modifications to the preliminary baseline part design model, as in step 1626, based on the recommendations made by the design team and analysis team(s)”};

Determining in the collaboration center access to the collaboration center by the authorized individuals {Page 16, Paragraph [0167], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over “the prime contractor may assign design and analysis access permissions to teams or individual team members as in step 1614”}; and

establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings, requesting information, reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect documents {Page 3, Paragraph [0026], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over “a current baseline design is maintained so that engineering analysis and simulation team members perform their analysis on the correct design”}; and

using the collaboration center for planning and resolving a collaboration purpose, and archiving project data {Page 7, Paragraph [0082], Lines 7-9, wherein this reads

over "EC data 394 may be used to store records of such transactions, and may comprise stored standard contracts data module 696"}.

As for claim 19, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:

using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules {Page 25, Paragraph [0276], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over "the designer may be given the option of viewing the report directly as browser pages or of linking to a file for download as a standard word processing text document"}.

As for claim 20, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:

allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project plans {Page 25, Paragraph [0276], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over "the designer may be given the option of viewing the report directly as browser pages or of linking to a file for download as a standard word processing text document"}.

As for claim 21, which has the same limitation as in claim 16, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 16.

As for claim 22, which has the same limitation as in claim 17, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 17.

As for claim 23, which has the same limitation as in claim 2, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 2.

As for claim 24, which has the same limitation as in claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 3.

As for claim 25, which has the same limitation as in claim 4, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 4.

As for claim 26, which has the same limitation as in claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 5.

As for claim 27, which has the same limitation as in claim 6, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 6.

As for claim 28, which has the same limitation as in claim 10, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 10.

As for claim 29, which has the same limitation as in claims 10 and 11, respectively, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claims 10 and 11, respectively.

As for claim 30, which has the same limitation as in claim 12, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 12.

As for claim 31, which has the same limitation as in claim 13, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 13.

As for claim 32, which has the same limitation as in claim 14, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 14.

As for claim 33, which has the same limitation as in claim 20, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 20.

As for claim 34, which has the same limitation as in claim 8, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 8.

As for claim 35, which has the same limitation as in claim 9, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 9.

As for claim 36, THACKSTON discloses an interactive computer apparatus for monitoring the progress of a project, the apparatus comprising:

a computer network with operating software allowing access to project data by authorized individuals using the computer network {Page 17, Paragraph [0182], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over "the team member logs on to the NICECAD system, as in step 1802, and the NICECAD system authenticates the team members"};

means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to access the project data on the computer network {Page 16, Paragraph [0167], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over "the prime contractor may assign design and analysis access permissions to teams or individual team members as in step 1614"};

means for creating an electronic collaboration center for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project {Page 16, Paragraph [0169], Lines 1-5, wherein this reads over "the prime contractor (or other approval authority) may approve proposed modifications to the preliminary baseline part design model, as in step 1626, based on the recommendations made by the design team and analysis team(s)"};

Art Unit: 3629

means for determining access to the collaboration center by authorized individuals {Page 16, Paragraph [0167], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over “the prime contractor may assign design and analysis access permissions to teams or individual team members as in step 1614”};

means, in the collaboration center, for defining one of a collaboration purpose and deadline {Page 7, Paragraph [0082], Lines 7-9, wherein this reads over “EC data 394 may be used to store records of such transactions, and may comprise stored standard contracts data module 696”};

means, in the collaboration center, for establishing a plan to meet the collaboration purpose {Page 7, Paragraph [0082], Lines 7-9, wherein this reads over “EC data 394 may be used to store records of such transactions, and may comprise stored standard contracts data module 696”}; and

means, in the collaboration center, for accepting inputs from authorized users to one of the collaboration purpose, plan and deadline, over the computer network {Page 1, Paragraph [0008], Lines 9-14, wherein this reads over “when an acoustic specialist recommends that improved hydrophones be used or an RF specialist recommends that an improved receiver be used, the mechanical engineer will need to determine if packaging limits are exceeded and the accounting specialists will need to determine if “design to cost” parameters are exceeded”}}.

As for claim 37, THACKSTON discloses the computer apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:

the operating software is contained in a central processor accessible by each of a plurality of individual nodes {Page 6, Paragraph [0074], Lines 5-8, wherein this reads over "NICECAD server system 200 may include the hardware and software to support and interface with prime contractor and supplier user systems on a substantially platform independent basis"}.

As for claim 38, THACKSTON discloses the computer apparatus of claim 37 wherein each of the nodes communicates with the central processor via a computer network {Page 5, Paragraph [0067], Lines 1-2, wherein this reads over "Network 260 may comprise any network that allows communication amongst the components"}.

As for claim 39, THACKSTON discloses the computer apparatus of claim 37 wherein the computer network uses Internet communication protocol for data communication between the nodes and the central processor {Page 5, Paragraph [0067], 3-4, wherein this reads over "future network technologies, such as the existing "Internet", "World Wide Web", Wide Area Network (WAN), Local Area Network (LAN)"};

As for claim 40, THACKSTON discloses an interactive computer apparatus for monitoring the progress of a project, the apparatus comprising:

a computer network with operating software allowing access to project data by authorized individuals using the computer network {Page 17, Paragraph [0182], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over "the team member logs on to the NICECAD system, as in step 1802, and the NICECAD system authenticates the team members"};

means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to electronically access the project on the computer network { Page 16, Paragraph [0167], Lines 1-3,

Art Unit: 3629

wherein this reads over “the prime contractor may assign design and analysis access permissions to teams or individual team members as in step 1614”};

means for creating an electronic collaboration center in the computer network for planning the project {Page 7, Paragraph [0082], Lines 7-9, wherein this reads over “EC data 394 may be used to store records of such transactions, and may comprise stored standard contracts data module 696”};

means for establishing and tracking project tasks in the collaboration center {Page 3, Paragraph [0026], Lines 12-15, wherein this reads over “a current baseline design is maintained so that engineering analysis and simulation team members perform their analysis on the correct design”};

means for determining access to project documents and information in the collaboration center {Page 16, Paragraph [0167], Lines 1-3, wherein this reads over “the prime contractor may assign design and analysis access permissions to teams or individual team members as in step 1614”};

means for providing issue resolutions in the collaboration center {Page 26, Paragraph [0282], Lines 3-5, wherein this reads over “three categories of fabricator reports may be supported, as reflected by the three paths emanating from decision block of step 6160”};

means for reviewing project progress in the collaboration center {Page 3, Paragraph [0026], Lines 15-19, wherein this reads over “the system supports quasis-real-time interactive audio, video and graphics so that team members can discuss design

issues in the virtual environment without having to cross geographic or format boundaries”};

means for tracking project finances in the collaboration center {Page 3, Paragraph [0029], Lines 2-4, wherein this reads over “virtual environment that reduces transactions costs and meets engineering challenges as it transcends geographic, business and format boundaries”};

means for electronically scheduling and attending meetings between authorized individuals in the collaboration center {Page 2, Paragraph [0019], Lines 2-6, wherein this reads over “multimedia communications capability to include audio, video and graphics, so that participants in an engineering effort can communicate and collaborate in the virtual engineering environment to discuss a design”};

means for requesting information in the collaboration center {Page 3, Paragraph [0028], Lines 5-6, wherein this reads over “a request for quote (RFQ) or request for proposal (RFP) with design data is submitted to the system”};

means for reporting project data in the collaboration center {Page 1, Paragraph [0002], Lines 8-11, wherein this reads over “conducting a virtual bidding process whereby an electronic representations of three dimensional model and specification data are provided by a central server”};

means for controlling changes to project documents and information in the collaboration center {Page 3, Paragraph [0026], Lines 10-12, wherein this reads over “an integrated product data management (PDM) capability manages access to controlled data and maintains a record of the various manifestations of the design”}; and

Art Unit: 3629

means for archiving project data in the collaboration center {Page 7, Paragraph [0082], Lines 7-9, wherein this reads over "EC data 394 may be used to store records of such transactions, and may comprise stored standard contracts data module 696"}.

As for claim 41, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising step of:

providing an electronic notepad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project {Page 11, Paragraph [0121], Lines 3-6, wherein this reads over "this module may provide for the data management and configuration control of non-graphic project documents such as project specifications, change documents ore revision history documents"}.

As for claim 42, THACKSTON discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising at least one of the steps of:

providing an electronic notepad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project {Page 11, Paragraph [0121], Lines 3-6, wherein this reads over "this module may provide for the data management and configuration control of non-graphic project documents such as project specifications, change documents ore revision history documents"};

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 08/04/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

THACKSTON teaches an electronic collaboration center on the computer network for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on a

Art Unit: 3629

project on Page 16, Paragraph [0169], Lines 1-5, wherein this reads over "the prime contractor (or other approval authority) may approve proposed modifications to the preliminary baseline part design model, as in step 1626, based on the recommendations made by the design team and analysis team(s)".

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

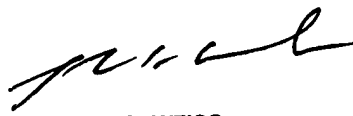
No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cang (James) G. Thai whose telephone number is (571) 272-6499. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CGT
10/02/2005


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600